

Newsletter



Federation of NZ Wool Merchants incorporating Woolfirst are proud to sponsor this Newsletter and provide two significant scholarships to up and coming Woolclassers.

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Greetings fellow classer and wool handlers.

On behalf of the Federation of NZ Wool Merchants and Woolfirst group we trust you have all had an interesting and challenging pre-lamb season. Once again many superb wools around the country. It is very pleasing to see strong sales in recent weeks. Always pleasing to see your efforts recognized.

Finewools I have seen this year have been well prepared and classed. Well done to you all.

I was very pleased to attend the AGM of the Wool Classers Association in Queenstown this year to launch the two Wool Merchant bursaries to assist students doing the Wool

Certificate of Technology course. The Federation congratulates the recipients and wish them a long and fruitful career in the industry.

The Federation, also makes a cash grant to NZWCA specifically to help with the production of your newsletter. Our members strongly believe this publication is a great means of communication and way of getting essential information out to the coal-face.

With main shear starting and lamb shearing not far away it is time to think about skirting levels and preparation levels of these different wools. Please remember poor skirting results in shorter lengths and lower fleece yields, particularly lambs wool.

For those of you with access to the internet, make use of your excellent website and also our merchant website

Woolfirst.co.nz

Have a great Christmas and New Year and look forward to a productive 2011

Regards to all

Don Urquhart

Kurowoolshed.co.nz

KUROW WOOL

NEW ZEALAND LIMITED

Registered wool & skin buyers

Liverpool Street

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Kurow

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WOOLCLASSING REVIEW 2009/2010

The wool growing season over the last 12 months has seen preparation of a very high standard across all sheep breeds.

Wool classing has been of a very high standard with good practices being put into place.

Because of the good growing conditions tenderness, colour and vegetable matter faults have been minimal therefore making the preparation in the shed a lot less stressful.

Vegetable matter is still a concern in the crossbred market,

therefore it is very important for contractors to speak to farmers prior to shearing to get a gauge on what staffing levels are required for shearing to remove the vegetable matter.

Fine wool classers should communicate with the farmer well in advance of shearing to get an indication of the season the sheep have been through and the classer requirements for contracts.

If there is one criticism of the preparation that is the distinction between non scourable colour

and condition. We see many lines made for colour that test up very good when all that has been taken out is condition.

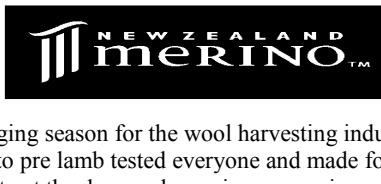
This is mainly applicable to the Mid Micron and full wool crossbred clips. It is important you talk to your broker for advice.

Finally congratulations to you all for maintaining good standards and good passion in an industry that is starting to see some positive signs

Roger Fuller
ELDERS, CHRISTCHURCH



NZWCA Board member Alastair Eckhoff soaks up the attention at the Shearing and Woolhandling World Championships Wales July 2010



Registrars Ramblings

Prices for well prepared wools have taken a significant lift right across the board. How many x- bred producers would have dared dream of achieving \$4.00 greasy over this past season and at the other end of the spectrum lifts of \$3.00 a kilogram were not uncommon for 16-17 micron merino.

What does this mean, is it going to be ongoing? I don't know, but I do believe that it is a chance that we all should take with both hands.

NZWCA have asked brokers to write QA assurances regarding qualified staff into their contracts – up until now this has not happened, maybe now it will as contracts become more specific. The demand for that contract to be met is paramount – once wool is in the bale you cannot do anything else with it.

As Registrar it is great to see the revival of interest in people wanting to be involved in our industry. People asking what they need to do to become classers, farmers asking about becoming owner classers – all this is positive.

Our website www.woolclassers.nz is up and running and being extended all the time this is for all of you to use and by early next year we hope to have the job search up enabling you to see if there is work available and for you to be offered work.

To all those who have given time and effort to support the association, whether it be running training day's or a bit of advice in a shed situation over the last 12 months thank you. We are all in this industry together and the feedback along the entire chain is most important as we look to the future.

Have a great festive season and welcome in the new season with a positive attitude and work ethic. If anyone out there has any problems please do not hesitate to contact me.

david.carr@tectra.co.nz or on 021 372 244



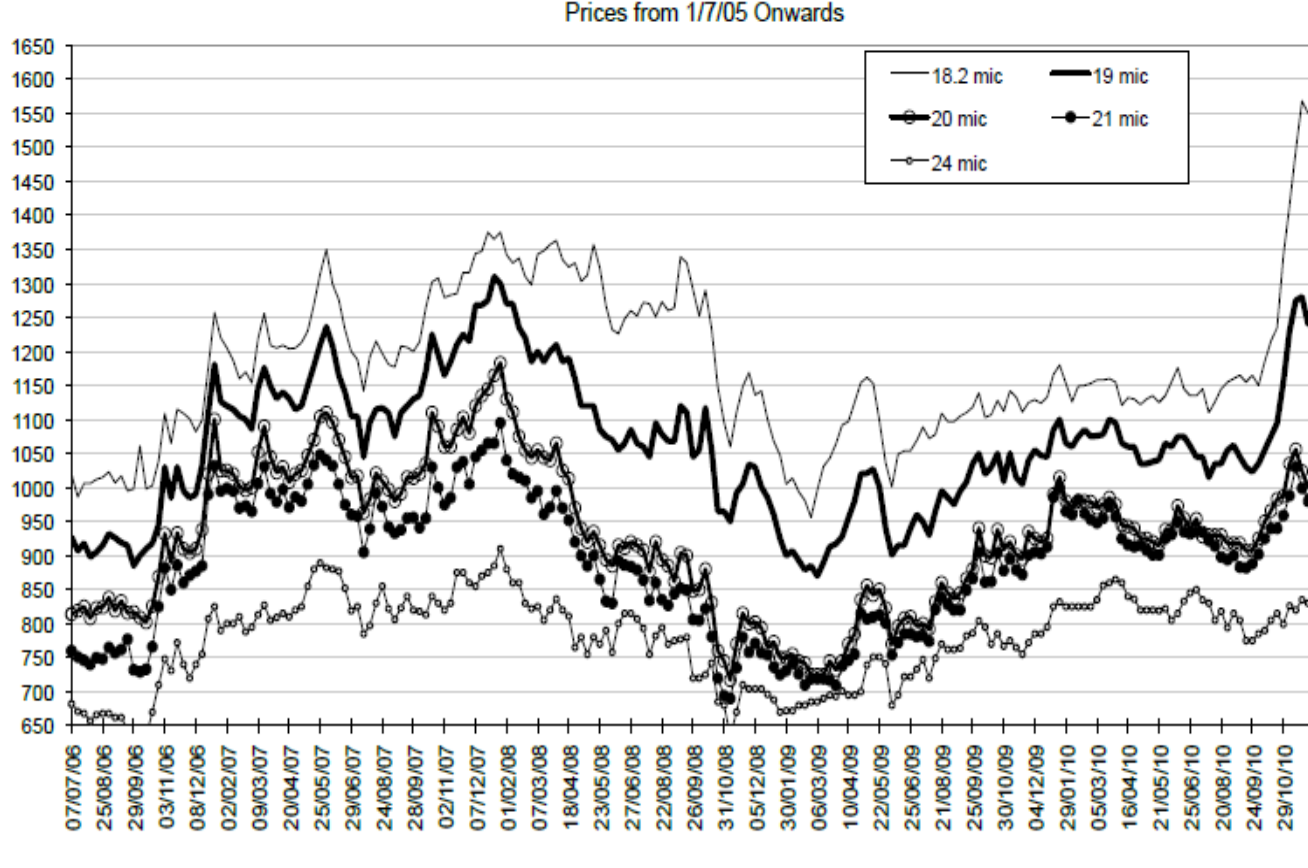
NZ World Championship Team Members Wales 2010

Back Row: Brian Thomson, Allen Gemmill,(Blades),Dave Carr(Manager), Cam Ferguson, David Fagan (Machines)

Front: Woolhandlers: Sheree Alabaster, Keryn Herbert

Clean Wool Prices

Prices from 1/7/05 Onwards



'PENNING FROM THE DESK'

Well the festive season is nearly upon us and I would like to take this opportunity to wish the entire Certificate in Wool Technology – WOOL CLASSING students a very Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

It has been a real tough few years with declining sheep numbers and very low Crossbred wool prices which has impacted greatly on student numbers; but here we are in 2010 with some hope that Crossbred prices will hold at their current level and next year will increase which would be the ideal tonic needed for the wool industry.

These Crossbred Growers are now starting to show some enthusiasm regarding improving preparation standards of their clip instead of just focusing on meat production. This is a real positive which all goes well for us in the training arena.

Tectra currently have 20 students enrolled in the Certificate in Wool Technology – Wool Programme and we would like to increase this number by 15 next year. So if there are any budding Level 3 or above Wool Handlers out there in the field who want to make Wool Classing their career please contact either me or Robyne Murray on the freephone 0800 496 657 and a brochure with application form attached will be sent to you.

Finally a gentle reminder for those students who are behind with their modules; please focus on them and send them into me quick smart as there is nothing worse than getting too far behind and making the Course Controller grumpy!!

Cheers for now, Laurie Boniface



NZ WOOL CLASSER ASSOCIATION

Second year Classing student Keryn Herbert competing World Championships Wales July 2010



Our Thanks to:

- New Zealand Merino for the Wool Prices graph, and
- Federation of Wool Merchants for sponsoring our Newsletter

From My Perspective

The past twelve or so months have proved interesting times for crossbred wool in particular, for a raft of reasons, but for wool prices to move from the lows experienced in mid to late 2009 to the highs of October/November 2010, has been quite astounding. During that time prices have improved by somewhere around 75%, however as mentioned the low base was a very low base!

Over the past couple of seasons we have noticed a definite reluctance from growers to employ excessive numbers of wool handling staff during shearing, and although that decision could be understood completely due to poor returns for wool, the danger of such an approach can have long-term negative reaction from users of NZ wool, who may consider that the wool did not perform as expected. Many wool clips have obviously displayed poorer than expected wool preparation standards during this time and, whilst that is now history, we must ensure that NZ wool's reputation remains at the forefront of quality expectation. Whilst there are a number of wool clips which may need minimal in-shed preparation, there are very few (if any) which require none! All wool clips must be prepared in the correct manner, and whilst the monetary cost of harvest and preparation should be kept under control, wool returns must be maximized. Because growers spend several months growing their wool crop, they should not discount it by substandard shed preparation. Over-preparation can also prove costly for growers, therefore, as all of you will understand, it is important to "get the job right" by referring to the growers' selling broker or agent prior to shearing to gain an exact understanding of what is required.

Let's hope that wool returns remain buoyant into 2011 and beyond so that once again we can all take pride in our work efforts, and our ability to return value to our growers. The industry is changing, and we must all embrace that change for the benefit and sustainability of the New Zealand wool industry as a whole.

By Rob Cochrane

WOOL PARTNERS

Chairman's Report

The most important role for myself as Chairman since the AGM has been to secure funding for the next two years for administration, Personal Development Programmes and the Funds Required to the Mentoring Scheme. In that process we have had to go through the new Minister of Agriculture's "Wool Industry Group" to secure funding from our historic source Beef and Lamb. This only added to the problems, as there will be no more money coming to NZWCA from this source in the future.

With our membership now at 202, with an income of \$14700.00 there will have to be some judicious use of income in future years. With the money coming from Beef and Lamb, our subscriptions and some cash reserves, it is intended to run an organization that has a meaningful contribution to the Wool Industry.

NZWCA is now a member of the "NZ Wool Harvesters", a group combining NZ Sport Shearing, NZ Shearing Contractors, NZWCA and TECTRA with Allan Frazar as facilitator. This group was formed as a condition of membership to the "Wool Industry Group" which to date has had about 4 meetings. At the latest meeting an application was made for transitional funding for the shortfall in funds until the "New Commercial Trainee Model" is proved sustainable into the future.

NZWCA has supported the Merino Co. in an application for funding, also from Beef and Lamb, in this transitional phase. We believe the "Classer Select" has made a huge contribution to the maintenance of standards and commercial understanding of industry requirements and should be continued. If funding is not forthcoming from B & L, the Classer Select in Christchurch will proceed this year but without B & L funding the programme will be under review according to Mike Hargadon of the Merino Co.

Once again NZ Shearer's and Woolhandlers have done exceedingly well and have won most classes at the World Championships in Wales this year. They represent the professionalism of the NZ Shearing Industry. Well Done

Martin Paterson

NZWCA Chairman